



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

LO
960079

April 12, 1996

Linda S. C. Rundell
District Manager
Las Cruces District Office
Bureau of Land Management
1800 Marquess St.
Las Cruces, NM 88005

Dear Ms. Rundell:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas has completed the review of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM)'s Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Copper Flat Mining Project located in the Hillsboro Mining District near Hillsboro, New Mexico.

Alta Gold Company, Inc. (ALTA) proposes to re-initiate copper mining activities in the Hillsboro Mining District. The Copper Flat site was initially developed in 1982 by the Copper Flat Partnership, Ltd. The mine operated for only 3 months and was reclaimed in 1986. ALTA purchased the mine site from Gold Express Corporation and now intends to develop the site. Mining remains the major land use in the area.

The EPA rates your DEIS as "LO," i.e., EPA has "Lack of Objections" to the lead agency's preferred alternative, the Reduced Stripping Ratio Alternative. Our classification will be published in the Federal Register according to our responsibility under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, to inform the public of our views on proposed Federal actions.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the DEIS. We request that you send our office one copy of the Final EIS at the same time that it is sent to the Office of Federal Activities, (2251A), EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20044.

Sincerely yours,

Michael P. Jansky, P.E.

Michael P. Jansky, P.E.
Regional Environmental Review Coordinator